

Labour Force, January 2022

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 17 February 2022, 10:30 am AEST.

NOTES: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (2 to 15 January 2022).

The ABS has suspended trend data due to COVID-19. As a result, all numbers in this brief are seasonally adjusted.

Key data (monthly)

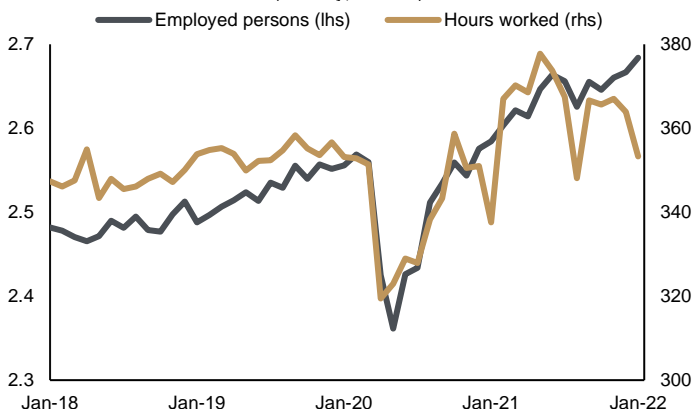
Employment:	Queensland,	17,400	(0.7%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	12,900	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	-8,400	(4.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	5,600	(4.2%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	9,000	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	18,600	(0.1%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	-14,300	(7.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	9,000	(6.7%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	-10,500	(-2.9%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	-159,400	(-8.8%)

Main findings

Employment in Queensland rose 17,400 persons (0.7%) in January 2022, with a rise in full-time employment (up 6,200) and part-time employment (up 11,200). In January 2022, employment in Queensland was 124,300 persons above its pre-pandemic level in March 2020, with a 97,000 person increase in full-time employment and a 27,300 person rise in part-time employment.

There were 353.3 million hours worked in Queensland in January 2022, down 2.9% in the month, but up 0.5% from the level in March 2020 (Chart 1). Hours worked continues to be the best measure of the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market. The ABS noted the fall in hours worked 'reflected more people than usual taking annual leave and sick leave in the first two weeks of January.'

Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland
(monthly, millions)

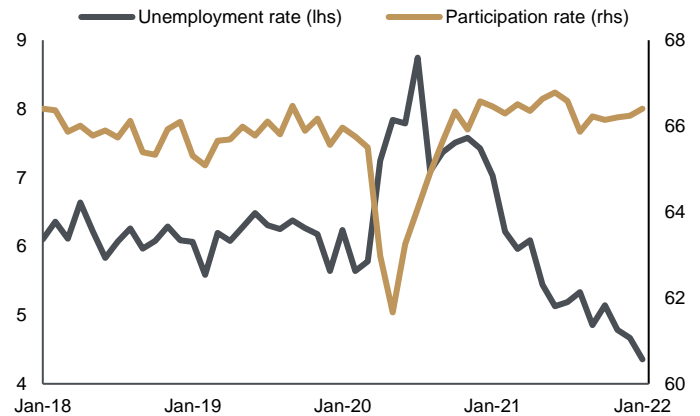


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.4% in January, down from 4.7% in December, and below the pre-COVID level of 5.8% in March 2020 (Chart 2). This was Queensland's lowest unemployment rate since December 2008. The number of unemployed persons in Queensland fell 8,400 in January 2022 to 122,200, down from a peak of 233,300 persons in July 2020 and 34,900 persons below the pre-COVID-19 level in March 2020.

Queensland's participation rate was 66.4% in January 2022, slightly higher than the 66.2% that it was in December 2021. An additional 9,000 persons entered the labour force in the month, with

a total of 89,400 persons having entered since March 2020. The participation rate in January remained above March 2020 (65.5%).

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland
(monthly, %)



Nationally, employment rose 12,900 persons (0.1%) in January, to be 259,500 persons (2.0%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. Reflecting the economic effects of the Omicron wave, New South Wales (down 22,800) and Victoria (down 15,600) experienced the largest declines in employment in the month.

The national unemployment rate was 4.2% in January 2022, unchanged from December 2021, and down from 5.3% in March 2020. There were 1,659.4 million hours worked in Australia in January 2022, down 8.8% from December 2021 and down 6.0% from March 2020 (Table 1).

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, January 2022

	Queensland				Australia					
	Jan-22	Monthly change	Yearly change		Jan-22	Monthly change	Yearly change			
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	
Employed	2,684.0	17.4	0.7	99.5	3.8	13,256.0	12.9	0.1	359.7	2.8
Full-time	1,837.9	6.2	0.3	97.6	5.6	9,077.3	-17.0	-0.2	291.4	3.3
Part-time	846.1	11.2	1.3	1.9	0.2	4,177.6	30.0	0.7	68.3	1.7
Unemployed	122.2	-8.4	-6.4	-73.1	-37.4	580.0	5.6	1.0	-301.6	-34.2
Underemployed	199.2	-14.3	-6.7	-44.1	-18.1	924.9	9.0	1.0	-215.0	-18.9
Labour force	2,806.2	9.0	0.3	26.3	0.9	13,835.0	18.6	0.1	58.1	0.4
	millions	millions	%	millions	%	millions	millions	%	millions	%
Hours worked	353.3	-10.5	-2.9	15.8	4.7	1,659.4	-159.4	-8.8	-9.2	-0.5
	Jan-22	Dec-21	Jan-21	Jan-22	Dec-21	Jan-21	Jan-22	Dec-21	Jan-21	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Unemployment rate	4.4	4.7	7.0	4.2	4.2	6.4				
Underemployment rate	7.1	7.6	8.8	6.7	6.6	8.3				
Participation rate	66.4	66.2	66.5	66.2	66.1	66.0				

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, January 2022

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.7	-0.5	-0.4	-0.8	0.6	-0.5	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	17,400	-22,800	-15,600	-7,300	8,800	-1,400	12,900
% change on a year ago	3.8	1.6	1.9	3.6	6.1	1.0	2.8
Change on a year ago (no.)	99,500	63,700	65,900	30,300	83,400	2,600	359,700
Unemployment rate (%)							
January 2022	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.8	3.7	3.8	4.2
December-21	4.7	4.0	4.2	3.9	3.4	3.9	4.2
January-21	7.0	6.0	6.3	6.9	6.3	6.0	6.4
Hours worked (millions)							
January-22	353.3	500.1	410.5	110.3	204.5	32.1	1,659.4
monthly % change	-2.9	-13.5	-13.2	-7.0	1.7	-5.1	-8.8
annual % change	4.7	-3.6	-5.5	1.6	8.3	1.0	-0.5

1. Note – numbers may not add due to rounding.